



Mayor of Markham

For Immediate Release

March 18, 2020

Statement from Mayor Frank Scarpitti on federal measures and Markham's continued response to COVID-19

I commend the Federal Government for restricting non-essential travel across the Canada-U.S border, while ensuring goods and trade continue to flow. The United States is Markham's largest source of foreign direct investment and we need to ensure trade can continue while we take every necessary step to flatten the curve and slow down the spread of the coronavirus.

I welcome additional economic measures announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that will provide relief for families and businesses, including a boost to the Canada Child Care Benefit, an extension of the tax filing deadline and emergency support for people who do not qualify for Employment Insurance (EI) benefits.

Many families, entrepreneurs and businesses are concerned about what to do next and this economic stimulus package should give them some peace of mind, ensuring people who need help will receive it. Markham is home to many innovative entrepreneurs and small and medium sized businesses that drive our economy and need support. The new measures include a temporary wage subsidy of 10 per cent for small businesses.

I also applaud the Federal Government for providing financial relief through the Indigenous Community Support Fund to address the immediate needs of First Nations, Inuit, Métis communities. The City of Markham has a partnership with Eabametoong First Nation in Northern Ontario and I am in regular contact with Chief Harvey Yesno at the remote First Nations community.

We should not forget to help people who need it and who may be feeling isolated or scared during this uncertain time. We are a compassionate and caring community, we look out for one another and we can all do our part to make a difference, even if in some small way. Thank you for supporting the *Markham Cares* Food Drive in support of the Markham Food Bank. Financial donations can be made at www.canadahelps.org

As a reminder, all City of Markham facilities are closed to the public until April 5, 2020. It is important to note that all essential municipal services will continue as usual. For up-to-date information, visit www.markham.ca/covid19

Together, we can take steps to help lessen the burden on our health care system, while protecting frontline health care workers. Thank you to all our first responders who are working tirelessly to keep us safe. Thank you to grocery store and pharmacy employees, truck drivers and everyone who is keeping our supply chain strong.

For more information on newly announced federal measures: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance.html>